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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,623	07/11/2001	Herve Hameury	Q65328	7889

7590 04/01/2003

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,  
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20037-3213

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, VINH P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2829

DATE MAILED: 04/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/901,623

Applicant(s)

HAMEURY, HERVE

Examiner

VINH P NGUYEN

Art Unit

2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because legal phraseology such as "comprising" is used and it has more than one paragraph. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
2. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 1-2, the term "the received wave" has no antecedent basis. It is unclear what is meant by "illuminating a zone of the equipment". Does the illumination need to use light. Furthermore, it is unclear where "a digital signal" is derived from.

In claim 4, the term "the received wave" has no antecedent basis. It is unclear what is meant by "illuminating a zone of the equipment". Does the illumination need to use light. Furthermore, it is unclear where "a digital signal" is derived from.

In claim 5, it is unclear what "two state sensor" represents. Is it shown in any of drawings? Furthermore, it is unclear what are differences between "a sensor" and "a two state sensor".

In claim 10, it is unclear what is meant by "illuminating a zone of the equipment". Does the illumination needs to use light.

In claim 16, it is unclear what "a circuit" represents. Is it shown in any of drawings?

The dependent claims not specifically address share the same indefiniteness as they depend from rejected base claims.

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3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-15,17 (insofar as understood) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stillwell et al (Pat # 4,384,289).

As to claims 1-5,10,13-15 and 17, Stillwell et al disclose a transponder unit for measuring Temperature and current on live transmission lines as shown in figure 7 having a thermal sensor (20), a current sensor (23),an antenna (28) , a modulator. According to Stillwell et al, the transponder is electrically coupled to the conductor and the temperature and the current signals are measured and transmitted to a receiver at a remote location. The device of Stillwell does not disclose a detailed receiver. However, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that the receiver of Stillwell would have an antenna for receiving the transmitted measured signals from the transponder and the signal processing means for analyzing the temperature and the current signals.

As to claims 6-9,11, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide more than one transponder for each the transmission lines so that the measured temperature or current signals are obtained more accurate on each of the transmission lines.


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Furthermore, it would have been obvious that the receiver of Stillwell would be arranged to deliver the signal with information identifying the respective sensor units.

As to claim 12, it appears that the thermal sensor (20) is located on each transmission lines at different locations, therefore the temperature at different locations are measured.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VINH P. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (703) 305-4914.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

  
VINH P. NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 2829  
03/19/03